

Crop Summary

Tobacco Growers Need Breezes

Lancaster County tobacco farmers were figuratively holding their breath this week. Reports from around the county indicate the heavy crop of the aromatic weed is going into the sheds at a rapid rate. Weather, while very warm, was also humid with drying of the crop not exceptionally fast. However there is little reported damage to the stored crops and farmers were hoping for the breezes to continue until some of the high moisture content in out of the stalks

and out of the sheds. Tomato harvest continues in the county with exceptionally heavy yields being reported. Many farmers without contracts for their crop report the red fruits going begging for a market. The green crop was one of the best on record with some farmers reporting upwards of \$1,000 per acre from the green picking. However green picking has come to a halt and growers report trouble finding open markets for their ripe fruits

Pastures, which have remained in good condition throughout most of the season, are beginning to show signs of dry weather in some sections. Farmers indicate lower milk production reflects the shorter pasture and the hot, humid weather which keeps the cows in the shade during much of the day.

Green stalks and leaves with the husks beginning to dry indicates the starting of a good maturity period for the county corn crop. Very few show any firing of the leaves but much of the crop is beginning to loosen in the husks. Silo filling is occupying the time of farmers without tobacco crops. Exceptionally heavy silage corn crops

are reported.

Fall seeding is beginning and plowing for fall seeding continues at a speeded-up rate. August plantings of alfalfa look good in most parts of the county, but rain is needed by some of the fields.

The weekly crop and weather summary of the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service issued Tuesday shows that farm activity has entered autumn and the final harvest stage.

Farmers are planting winter wheat and barley for next year's harvest, while others continue with fall plowing, and start fall potato harvest.

Peach harvest is past its peak in most areas. The hot humid weather speeded the ripening process and it is expected that harvest will be completed in southern Pennsylvania this week.

The weather has also favored apple development. McIntosh apples will be ready for harvest this week in east central areas.

Fall potato growers have diggers in the field in some southeastern counties. The humid weather stopped some fall potato digging last week in Lehigh County. In Potter County, farmers are killing vines and potato harvest should start by next week.

Both red and light skinned potatoes are being harvested with fine quality in the Erie County region.

The combination of hot weather and warm nights has helped speed corn to maturity. Corn has entered the dent stage in all sections and some early fields are mature.

Two Farms Sell Over \$120,000

Two farms in East Drumore Township, the estate of the late Albert H. Fritz, were sold for a total of \$120,850 at public auction Tuesday.

The largest of the two farms, adjoining each other along the west side of Route 222 about 1/2 mile south of Quarryville, was purchased by Ernest Mellinger, Ronks R1, for \$88,750. The farm contained 182 acres and nine perches.

The 124 acres and 108 perches in the second farm brought \$32,100 from Emory Wagner of Kirkwood.

Executors of the estate, F. Marion Fritz, Florence M. Keefer, Clair L. Wade and the Lancaster County National Bank, conducted the sale. Kersey Bradley was the Auctioneer.

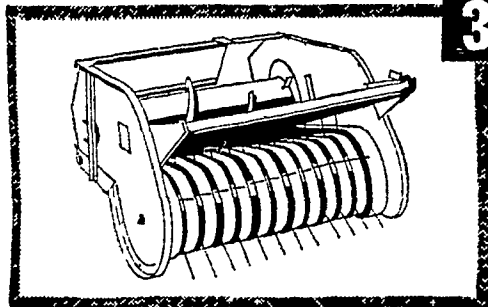
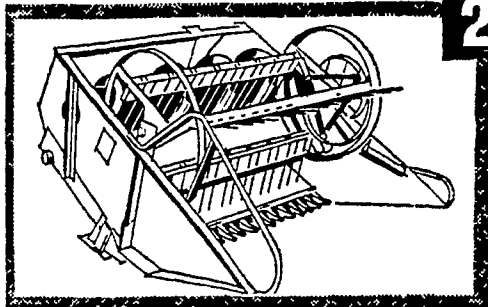
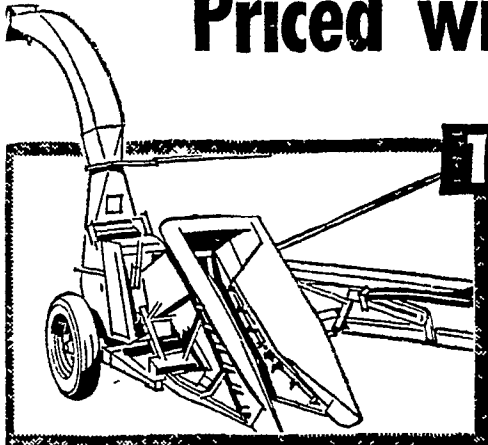
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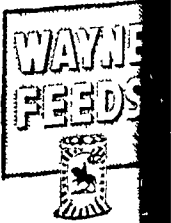
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